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Vol. XLIII Nos. 9-12
December 1987

MICHIGAN LABOR MARKET REVIEW

JOB SERVICE
Michigan Employment Security Commission

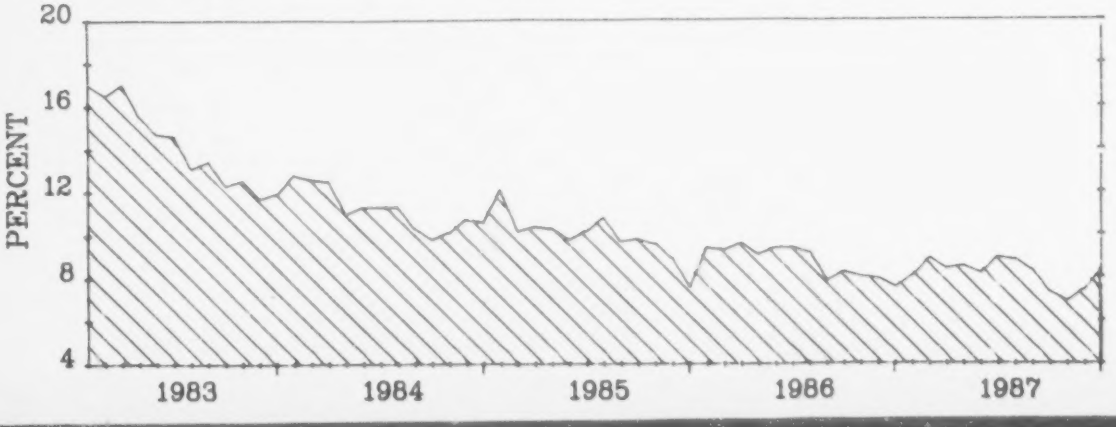
JOBLESS RATE ENDS YEAR AT 8.3 PERCENT

In December 1987, Michigan's jobless rate rebounded to the August level of joblessness as the rate reached 8.3 percent. The rise in the statewide jobless rate was primarily the result of seasonal factors due to the onset of winter which traditionally contributes to additional job losses in the state. The December unemployment rate represents 372,000 unemployed individuals. Total employment over the four-month period registered a significant decline as the number of employed state residents fell by 182,000 to reach 4,114,000. The drop in employment was a direct result of seasonal job losses in construction, agriculture and manufacturing industries. Subsequently, the employment losses drove the civilian labor force down by 193,000 to finish the year at 4,486,000. Compared with a year ago, employment in Michigan has dipped by 22,000, while the size of the labor force has increased by 9,000. In December 1986, the total number of persons out of work amounted to 341,000, representing an unemployment rate of 7.6 percent.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUE TO EXPAND

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in Michigan jumped over the last four months of the year as industry jobs climbed to 3,751,000 in December. Employment opportunities increased by approximately 87,000 as service producing gains offset goods producing losses. Total employment in the goods producing industries slipped by 9,000 primarily as a result of seasonal layoffs in the construction industry. Service producing employment expanded by 86,000 to 2,641,000 in December, as large seasonal advances occurred in retail trade and government. Public sector positions grew by 63,000 as a new school year began and educational facilities recalled furloughed workers. Since December 1986, industry employment in Michigan has increased by 52,000 positions or 1.4 percent. Approximately 64,000 service producing jobs have been added throughout the year, while goods producing employment dropped by 13,000.

MICHIGAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (1983–1987)



Civilian Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Estimates

State of Michigan

ITEM	DECEMBER 1987	NOVEMBER 1987	OCTOBER 1987	DECEMBER 1986
PLACE OF RESIDENCE				
Civilian Labor Force	4486	4533	4518	4477
Employment	4114	4199	4208	4136
Unemployment	372	335	310	341
Rate	8.3	7.4	6.9	7.6
PLACE OF WORK				
Wage and Salary Employment	3751	3755	3748	3699
Goods Producing Industries	1110	1119	1123	1123
Construction and Mining	148	156	162	127
Mining	11	11	11	10
Construction	137	145	151	117
Special trade Contractors	94	97	100	76
Other Construction	43	48	51	41
Manufacturing	962	963	961	996
Durable Goods	734	734	733	774
Lumber and Wood Products	14	14	14	14
Furniture and Fixtures	29	29	29	27
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	17	17	17	17
Metals	168	167	166	171
Primary Metals	48	48	48	49
Fabricated Metals	119	119	118	122
Nonelectrical Machinery	122	123	123	126
Electrical Machinery	38	38	37	39
Transportation Equipment	324	323	324	358
Motor Vehicles and Equipment	302	301	303	336
Other Transportation Equipment	22	22	22	22
Other Durable Goods	22	23	23	23
Nondurable Goods	228	229	228	222
Food and Kindred Products	46	47	48	47
Textiles and Apparel	24	25	25	25
Paper and Allied Products	21	21	21	21
Printing and Publishing	40	39	39	38
Chemicals and Petroleum	45	45	44	43
Other Nondurable Goods	52	52	51	48
Rubber and Plastic Prod.	50	49	49	46
Leather Products	3	3	2	2
Service Producing Industries	2641	2635	2625	2577
Trans., Comm. and Utilities	148	149	148	151
Transportation and Utilities	113	113	113	116
Communications	36	36	36	34
Wholesale Trade	181	181	180	179
Durable Goods	116	116	116	116
Nondurable Goods	64	64	65	63
Retail Trade	699	687	678	671
General Merchandise Stores	109	104	100	107
Food Stores	91	90	91	91
Automotive Dealers and Services	74	74	74	74
Eating and Drinking Places	237	237	237	223
Other Retail Trade	188	181	176	175
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	183	179	178	174
Finance	92	92	91	89
Insurance and Real Estate	91	87	87	85
Services	803	806	809	795
Business Services	167	169	171	172
Health Services	266	267	267	265
Other Services	370	369	371	358
Government	626	635	630	607
Federal	62	61	61	61
State	162	167	166	150
Local	401	406	403	396
Labor Disputes	0	0	0	0

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE data are based on the monthly Current Population Survey of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - 1986 Benchmark.

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT is based on a monthly sample of employing establishments as part of the cooperative federal-state Current Employment Statistics program - March 1986 Benchmark.

CLAIMS ACTIVITY

The number of individuals collecting regular unemployment benefits decreased during the last four months of 1987. The regular benefits claims load averaged 128,728 per week during the month of December, approximately 9,864 less than the August total.

The seven percent decrease was primarily due to seasonal advances in retail trade. In December 1986, the number of claimants drawing benefits under the regular benefit program averaged 128,930, or approximately one tenth percent higher than the present total.

WEEKLY CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Week Ending	Michigan			Detroit		
	Total	Initial	Continued	Total	Initial	Continued
December 05, 1987	130,300	21,000	109,300	58,400	8,800	49,600
December 12, 1987	143,100	21,600	121,500	64,400	10,100	54,300
December 19, 1987	162,000	27,300	134,700	71,200	10,800	60,400
December 26, 1987	163,600	28,800	134,800	73,000	11,100	61,900

DETROIT COST OF LIVING DECLINES

Consumer prices in the Detroit metropolitan area decreased from 339.3 in October to 334.6 in December. The decrease in Detroit area prices was primarily due to lower costs for men and women's apparel and housing. Prices in the area climbed by three percent since December 1986, when the consumer price index stood at 324.7. At the national level, the cost of living dipped slightly by one-tenth of a point to reach 345.7 during the month.

The lower national prices were also due to lower costs for men and women's apparel. Between December 1986 and December 1987, national consumer prices increased by 4.4 percent. One year ago, the national index registered 331.1. Note: Beginning in January 1987, the Detroit index which was previously published monthly, is now issued only for even numbered months.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

The average workweek of Michigan workers in manufacturing industries increased to 43.0 hours in December. The increase occurred primarily as a result of additional hours worked by individuals in the electrical and nonelectrical machinery industries.

During the month average hourly earnings rose by thirteen cents to $13.19, while average weekly earnings climbed by $6.90 to total $567.17. In December 1986, earnings averaged $12.84 an hour or $561.11 per week for a 43.7 hour workweek.

MICHIGAN'S HOURS AND EARNINGS

Industry	Average Hourly Earnings a/			Average Weekly Hours a/			Average Weekly Earnings a/		
	Dec 1987	Nov 1987	Dec 1986	Dec 1987	Nov 1987	Dec 1986	Dec 1987	Nov 1987	Dec 1986
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	$13.19	$13.06	$12.84	43.0	42.9	43.7	$567.17	$560.27	$561.11
DURABLE GOODS	13.78	13.67	13.33	43.2	43.2	44.0	595.30	590.54	586.52
Primary Metal Products	13.39	13.21	12.15	43.7	43.5	43.2	585.14	574.63	524.88
Fabricated Metal Products	12.97	12.94	12.69	43.0	42.6	43.0	557.71	551.24	545.67
Nonelectrical Machinery	13.30	13.03	12.99	44.3	43.3	44.7	589.19	564.20	580.65
Electrical Machinery	11.29	11.15	10.97	42.2	41.4	44.9	476.44	461.61	492.55
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	15.91	15.74	15.12	43.2	44.2	44.5	687.31	695.71	672.84
NONDURABLE GOODS	11.15	10.99	11.03	42.4	41.9	42.8	472.76	460.48	472.08
Contract Construction	15.52	15.36	15.72	37.6	39.3	37.1	583.55	603.65	583.21
Department Stores	6.30	6.41	6.79	28.8	27.7	28.2	181.44	177.56	191.48

a/ Average weekly and hourly earnings are computed from aggregates of individual establishment reports utilizing the total amount paid to production workers and total production hours. Average weekly and hourly earnings differ from weekly and hourly rates in that they are affected by overtime wage rates, part-time earnings, the length of the workweek, etc.

Note: *Current month data are preliminary.*

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES
DECEMBER 1987 (Preliminary)

Area	Civilian Labor Force	Total Employment	Total Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
United States	120,206,000	113,679,000	6,526,000	5.4
Michigan	4,485,000	4,114,000	372,000	8.3
Major Labor Markets				
Ann Arbor MSA	161,200	155,300	5,900	3.7
Battle Creek MSA	62,700	57,400	5,300	8.4
Benton Harbor MSA	76,300	70,600	5,700	7.4
Detroit MSA	2,186,000	2,010,000	176,000	8.0
Flint MSA	203,100	174,600	28,500	14.0
Grand Rapids MSA	340,400	319,400	21,000	6.2
Jackson MSA	62,200	57,300	4,900	7.8
Kalamazoo MSA	115,400	109,400	6,100	5.2
Lansing MSA	235,300	220,100	15,200	6.5
Muskegon MSA	66,900	60,700	6,200	9.3
Saginaw-Bay-Midland MSA	188,100	172,200	15,900	8.5
Upper Peninsula LMA	127,300	112,600	14,600	11.5
Major Counties (15,000+)				
Allegan	51,450	48,450	2,975	5.8
Barry	20,400	18,600	1,800	8.8
Bay	54,475	49,150	5,350	9.8
Branch	16,750	15,375	1,375	8.2
Cass	23,125	21,825	1,300	5.6
Clinton	29,450	27,450	2,000	6.8
Delta	15,100	13,575	1,525	10.2
Eaton	50,600	47,825	2,775	5.5
Grand Traverse	32,250	29,275	2,950	9.2
Gratiot	17,350	15,325	2,050	11.8
Hillsdale	18,825	16,750	2,075	11.0
Huron	15,175	13,550	1,625	10.7
Ingham	155,300	144,825	10,475	6.8
Ionia	18,375	16,625	1,750	9.6
Isabella	27,900	26,100	1,775	6.4
Kent	251,075	235,400	15,700	6.3
Lapeer	33,525	29,250	4,275	12.8
Lenawee	40,725	36,375	4,350	10.7
Livingston	50,900	47,825	3,075	6.0
Macomb	375,025	346,025	29,000	7.7
Marquette	28,100	25,650	2,475	8.8
Midland	36,250	33,975	2,250	6.2
Monroe	62,900	57,850	5,050	8.0
Montcalm	20,975	18,925	2,050	9.8
Newaygo	16,350	14,750	1,600	9.7
Oakland	570,575	535,175	35,400	6.2
Ottawa	89,325	84,000	5,300	5.9
Saginaw	97,400	89,100	8,325	8.5
St. Clair	67,125	59,050	8,100	12.1
St. Joseph	25,825	23,475	2,350	9.1
Sanilac	19,625	17,500	2,150	10.9
Shiawassee	33,875	30,000	3,875	11.4
Tuscola	22,800	20,275	2,525	11.1
Van Buren	29,500	26,050	3,450	11.7
Wayne	1,026,175	935,125	91,050	8.9

MICHIGAN EMPLOYMENT
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MICHIGAN LABOR MARKET REVIEW

Vol. XLIV No. 1
January 1988

JOB SERVICE

Michigan Employment Security Commission

AUTO PLANT CLOSINGS CAUSE JOBLESSNESS TO RISE

Michigan's unemployment rate jumped by 2.4 percentage points as the jobless rate climbed from 8.3 percent in December to 10.7 percent in January. The rate increase represents 100,000 additional individuals out of work, as total state residents seeking employment grew to 472,000. The increase in joblessness was primarily a result of layoffs and plant closings in the automotive industry and seasonal losses in retail trade, construction and local education. Total employment in January registered a large drop as the number of employed residents fell by 165,000 to reach 3,954,000. Additionally, the civilian labor force decreased to 4,426,000, a loss of 65,000. Compared with a year ago, employment in Michigan has plunged by 104,000 while the size of the labor force has expanded by 10,000. In January 1987, the total number of persons out of work amounted to 358,000, representing an unemployment rate of 8.1 percent.

STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES DECLINE

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in Michigan fell as industry jobs declined to 3,683,000 in January. Employment opportunities dropped by approximately 93,000 as losses were centered in both the goods producing and service producing sectors of the economy. Total employment in the goods producing industries decreased by 39,000 primarily as a result of seasonal layoffs in construction and the closing of four automobile facilities. Service producing employment declined by 56,000 to 2,626,000 in January, as a result of seasonal cutbacks in retail trade, services and government. Public sector positions temporarily fell by 12,000. Since January 1987, industry employment in Michigan has increased by 29,000 positions or about one percent. Approximately 68,000 service producing jobs have been added throughout the year, while goods producing employment plunged by 40,000.

Civilian Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Estimates

State of Michigan

ITEM	JAN 1988	DEC 1987	NOV 1987	JAN 1987
PLACE OF RESIDENCE				
Civilian Labor Force	4426	4491	4538	4416
Employment	3954	4119	4203	3914
Unemployment	472	372	335	404
Rate	10.7	8.3	7.4	9.1
PLACE OF RESIDENCE				
PLACE OF WORK				
Wage and Salary Employment	3683	3777	3776	3654
Goods Producing Industries	1056	1103	1095	1096
Construction and Mining	120	141	133	114
Mining	9	10	10	9
Construction	111	131	123	105
Special trade Contractors	76	85	82	70
Other Construction	34	45	41	35
Manufacturing	936	962	962	982
Durable Goods	717	738	739	766
Lumber and Wood Products	13	13	13	13
Furniture and Fixtures	33	32	32	30
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	17	18	17	17
Metals	166	168	169	170
Primary Metals	48	49	49	49
Fabricated Metals	118	119	120	121
Nonelectrical Machinery	121	122	122	125
Electrical Machinery	36	37	37	38
Transportation Equipment	309	325	326	351
Motor Vehicles and Equipment	288	304	305	329
Other Transportation Equipment	21	22	21	22
Other Durable Goods	22	22	22	22
Nondurable Goods	219	224	223	216
Food and Kindred Products	44	46	45	44
Textiles and Apparel	21	23	22	23
Paper and Allied Products	20	21	20	21
Printing and Publishing	39	40	40	38
Chemicals and Petroleum	44	44	44	42
Other Nondurable Goods	51	51	52	48
Rubber and Plastic Prod.	49	49	49	45
Leather Products	2	3	2	2
Service Producing Industries	2626	2675	2682	2558
Trans., Comm. and Utilities	148	150	151	148
Transportation and Utilities	112	114	115	113
Communications	36	36	36	35
Wholesale Trade	187	188	189	183
Durable Goods	118	119	119	117
Nondurable Goods	69	70	70	66
Retail Trade	674	692	705	645
General Merchandise Stores	103	105	111	99
Food Stores	96	96	97	92
Automotive Dealers and Services	74	75	75	74
Eating and Drinking Places	232	232	232	214
Other Retail Trade	179	184	190	166
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	182	178	183	174
Finance	92	92	92	90
Insurance and Real Estate	90	86	91	85
Services	813	822	819	799
Business Services	175	178	175	172
Health Services	267	268	267	267
Other Services	371	376	377	360
Government	623	644	635	609
Federal	62	61	62	60
State	161	167	163	156
Local	401	415	410	393

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE data are based on the monthly Current Population Survey of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - 1986 Benchmark.
WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT is based on a monthly sample of employing establishments as part of the

CLAIMS ACTIVITY

The number of individuals collecting regular unemployment benefits increased significantly during the month of January. The regular benefits claims load averaged 159,878 per week during the month, approximately 31,150 more than the December total.

The 24 percent increase was primarily due to plant closings in the automotive industry. In January 1987, the number of claimants drawing benefits under the regular benefit program averaged 137,360, or approximately 14 percent lower than the present total.

WEEKLY CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Week Ending	Michigan			Detroit		
	Total	Initial	Continued	Total	Initial	Continued
January 02, 1988	167,100	30,900	136,200	70,600	12,300	58,300
January 09, 1988	193,900	41,600	152,300	83,100	21,500	61,600
January 16, 1988	197,700	29,000	168,700	87,900	13,800	74,100
January 23, 1988	201,700	19,600	182,100	92,600	8,400	84,200
January 30, 1988	207,600	23,100	184,500	95,300	10,400	84,900

DETROIT COST OF LIVING DECLINES

Consumer prices in the Detroit metropolitan area decreased from 339.3 in October to 334.6 in December. The decrease in Detroit area prices was primarily due to lower costs for men and women's apparel and housing. Prices in the area climbed by three percent since December 1986, when the consumer price index stood at 324.7. At the national level, the cost of living dipped slightly by one-tenth of a point to reach 345.7 during the month.

The lower national prices were also due to lower costs for men and women's apparel. Between December 1986 and December 1987, national consumer prices increased by 4.4 percent. One year ago, the national index registered 331.1. Note: Beginning in January 1987, the Detroit index which was previously published monthly, is now issued only for even numbered months.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

The average workweek of Michigan workers in manufacturing industries decreased to 42.3 hours in January. The decrease occurred primarily as a result of fewer hours worked by individuals in the fabricated metal industry.

During the month average hourly earnings rose by one cent to $13.23, while average weekly earnings dropped by $10.15 to total $559.63. In January 1987, earnings averaged $12.92 an hour or $554.27 per week for a 42.9 hour workweek.

MICHIGAN'S HOURS AND EARNINGS

Industry	Average Hourly Earnings a/			Average Weekly Hours a/			Average Weekly Earnings a/		
	Jan 1988	Dec 1987	Jan 1987	Jan 1988	Dec 1987	Jan 1987	Jan 1988	Dec 1987	Jan 1987
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	$13.23	$13.22	$12.92	42.3	43.1	42.9	$559.63	$569.78	$554.27
DURABLE GOODS	13.83	13.81	13.44	42.6	43.3	43.1	589.16	597.97	579.26
Primary Metal Products	13.43	13.43	12.53	43.3	43.8	42.5	581.52	588.23	532.52
Fabricated Metal Products	13.01	13.07	12.89	41.8	43.1	42.2	543.82	563.32	543.96
Nonelectrical Machinery	13.37	13.30	12.96	43.9	44.3	44.0	586.94	589.19	570.24
Electrical Machinery	11.58	11.52	11.30	42.2	42.5	43.2	488.68	489.60	488.16
Motor Vehicles & Equip	16.07	15.90	15.22	42.9	43.2	43.8	689.40	686.88	666.64
NONDURABLE GOODS	11.11	11.11	10.97	41.3	42.3	42.0	458.84	469.95	460.74
Contract Construction	15.56	15.51	15.59	37.2	37.6	37.8	578.83	583.18	589.30
Department Stores	5.91	6.30	6.51	27.7	28.8	26.3	163.71	181.44	171.21

a/ *Average weekly and hourly earnings are computed from aggregates of individual establishment reports utilizing the total amount paid to production workers and total production hours. Average weekly and hourly earnings differ from weekly and hourly rates in that they are affected by overtime wage rates, part-time earnings, the length of the workweek, etc.*

Note: *Current month data are preliminary.*

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES
JANUARY 1988 (Preliminary)

Area	Civilian Labor Force	Total Employment	Total Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
United States	119,742,000	112,139,000	7,603,000	6.3
Michigan	4,426,000	3,954,000	472,000	10.7
Major Labor Markets				
Ann Arbor MSA	155,100	147,500	7,600	4.9
Battle Creek MSA	63,600	56,500	7,100	11.2
Benton Harbor MSA	75,000	68,400	6,700	8.9
Detroit MSA	2,133,000	1,914,000	219,000	10.3
Flint MSA	198,200	163,000	35,100	17.7
Grand Rapids MSA	339,200	313,600	25,600	7.6
Jackson MSA	62,300	55,900	6,400	10.2
Kalamazoo MSA	111,900	104,600	7,300	6.6
Lansing MSA	234,800	213,500	21,300	9.1
Muskegon MSA	65,800	58,200	7,600	11.6
Saginaw-Bay-Midland MSA	182,800	161,400	21,400	11.7
Upper Peninsula LMA	128,700	110,600	18,100	14.1
Major Counties (15,000+)				
Allegan	52,075	48,125	3,950	7.6
Barry	20,625	18,375	2,250	10.9
Bay	52,900	46,300	6,600	12.4
Branch	17,050	15,125	1,900	11.2
Cass	21,950	20,175	1,775	8.1
Clinton	29,200	26,425	2,800	9.6
Delta	15,725	13,525	2,200	13.9
Eaton	50,650	46,350	4,300	8.5
Grand Traverse	33,200	29,475	3,725	11.2
Gratiot	17,350	15,000	2,350	13.5
Hillsdale	19,575	17,100	2,475	12.6
Huron	15,775	13,300	2,475	15.7
Ingham	154,950	140,700	14,275	9.2
Ionia	20,025	17,575	2,475	12.3
Isabella	27,075	24,925	2,150	7.9
Kent	249,600	230,900	18,700	7.5
Lapeer	33,600	28,075	5,525	16.4
Lenawee	41,725	36,525	5,200	12.5
Livingston	50,475	46,500	3,975	7.9
Macomb	366,325	330,900	35,400	9.7
Marquette	28,050	25,100	2,975	10.6
Midland	33,900	30,975	2,925	8.6
Monroe	61,100	55,250	5,850	9.6
Montcalm	20,650	18,200	2,475	11.9
Newaygo	16,875	14,775	2,100	12.5
Oakland	560,725	512,150	48,575	8.7
Ottawa	89,625	82,700	6,925	7.7
Saginaw	96,025	84,125	11,900	12.4
St. Clair	65,825	56,625	9,200	14.0
St. Joseph	27,075	23,125	3,975	14.7
Sanilac	19,275	16,350	2,925	15.2
Shiawassee	33,825	28,975	4,850	14.3
Tuscola	22,525	19,075	3,450	15.3
Van Buren	29,925	26,025	3,900	13.1
Wayne	995,150	884,950	110,200	11.1

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MICHIGAN LABOR MARKET REVIEW

Vol. XLIV No. 2
February 1988

JOB SERVICE

Michigan Employment Security Commission

MICHIGAN'S JOBLESS RATE FALLS IN FEBRUARY

Michigan's unemployment rate dropped by 1.8 percentage points as the jobless rate fell from 10.7 percent in January to 8.9 percent in February. The rate decrease represents 74,000 fewer individuals out of work, as total state residents seeking employment plunged to 398,000. The decline in joblessness was primarily a result of employment gains in service related industries and the seasonal restaffing at state educational facilities. Total employment in February registered a significant gain as the number of employed residents jumped by 117,000 to reach 4,071,000. Additionally, the civilian labor force advanced to 4,469,000, a gain of 43,000. Compared with a year ago, employment in Michigan has increased by 33,000, while the size of the labor force has grown by 38,000. In February 1987, the total number of persons out of work amounted to 393,000, representing an unemployment rate of 8.9 percent.

STATEWIDE JOB OPPORTUNITIES SHIFT SLIGHTLY

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in Michigan dipped as industry jobs inched downward to 3,682,000 in February. Employment opportunities slipped by approximately 5,000 as goods producing losses offset service producing gains. Total employment in the goods producing industries decreased by 15,000 primarily as a result of seasonal construction cutbacks and minor production adjustment layoffs in the auto industry. Service producing employment increased by 10,000 to 2,641,000 in February, as statewide educational institutions recalled staff members from the holiday recess. Public sector positions jumped by 16,000 as a result. Since February 1987, industry employment in Michigan has increased by 14,000 positions or about one-half percent. Approximately 53,000 goods producing jobs have been lost throughout the year, while service producing employment grew by 67,000.